

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-13 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /080 W

-----241032 025354 /11

R 240930Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6919

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

USUN 1472

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 0853

CAPE TOWN ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, SF

SUBJECT: INDEPENDENCE OF BOPHUTHATSWANA

REF: PRETORIA 0411 (NOTAL)

1. IN RECENT CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFFS, CHIEF MINISTER MANGOPE OF BOPHUTHATSWANA CONFIRMED THAT DECEMBER 6 WAS OFFICIAL DATE FOR INDEPENDENCE. ALTHOUGH HE EMPHASIZED HIS ALREADY PUBLIC DEMAND FOR NEED TO CONSOLIDATE BOPHUTHATSWANA LANDS, HE SAID THAT THIS IS NOT PREREQUISITE FOR INDEPENDENCE. IN ORDER TO PROTECT HIS RIGHT TO PURSUE LAND DEMANDS, HE SAID THAT INDEPENDENCE AGREEMENT AND NEW BOPHUTHATSWANA CONSTITUTION WOULD
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REFLECT FACT THAT LAND ISSUE WAS NOT YET SETTLED. VORSTER HAS VERBALLY AGREED IN PRIVATE TO ACCEPT FACT THAT ISSUE NOT SETTLED, BUT OFFERED NO OTHER COMMITMENT.

2. ON OTHER MATTERS PERTAINING TO INDEPENDENCE, MANGOPE STATED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT

"MAKE NOISE" AS HAD TRANSKEI. HE HOPED FOR
EVENTUAL RECOGNITION BY FRIENDLY NATIONS, BUT COULD
UNDERSTAND WHY COUNTRIES LIKE THE U.S. WOULD INITIALLY
BALK AT RECOGNITION. BOPHUTHATSWANA WOULD NOT
TRY TO APPLY PRESSURES ON THESE COUNTRIES. DOMESTICALLY
THE NEW NATION WOULD BE NON-RACIAL SOCIETY AND
BOPHUTHATSWANA GOVERNMENT WOULD CONFRONT
SAG ON TREATMENT OF TSWANA NATIONALS IN SOUTH AFRICA,
INSISTING ON FAIR AND EQUAL EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES,
HOUSING RIGHTS, ETC. MANGOPE FRANKLY ADMITTED
NECESSITY OF CONTINUED "DEPENDENCE" ON SOUTH AFRICA
ECONOMICALLY AFTER INDEPENDENCE, BUT FELT IT WOULD
NOT BE MORE SO THAN NATIONS LIKE LESOTHO AND SWAZILAND.

3. IN DISCUSSING REASONS BEHIND HIS ACCEPTANCE OF
INDEPENDENCE, MANGOPE STATED THAT HIS ULTIMATE AIM
IS REUNIFICATION IN FEDERALIST SYSTEM. HE FEELS
DESTINY OF SOUTH AFRICA IS ONE, BUT BECAUSE WHITES
AT PRESENT WOULD NOT ACCEPT FEDERAL STATE, BLACKS
MUST SEEK BEST ALTERNATIVE TO PRESENT STATELESS
EXISTENCE UNTIL SUCH TIME FEDERAL STATE CAN BE
ACHIEVED.

4. COMMENT: BOPHUTHATSWANA GOVERNMENT SEEMS COMMITTED
TO ACHIEVING INDEPENDENCE BY DECEMBER 6. CONSTRUCTION
OF NEW CAPITOL, JUST 3 KILOMETERS NORTH OF MAFEKING
(INSTEAD OF PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED SITE NEAR RUSTENBURG),
IS JUST BEGINNING. PROJECTS SUCH AS REBUILDING OF
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY BURNED LAST YEAR ARE POSTPONED
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PENDING CONSTRUCTION OF NEW CAPITAL. ALL PERSONS
CONTACTED DURING VISIT, BOTH BLACK AND WHITE,
INDICATED ACCEPTANCE OF INDEPENDENCE AS FACT, ALBEIT
WITH VARYING DEGREES OF ENTHUSIASM.BOWDLER

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